

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10185 100941Z

12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 /018 W
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R 100835Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9476

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FOR NEA/IRN NAAS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, IR
SUBJ: INQUIRY FROM MR. WINTON BLOUNT

1. MR. WINTON BLOUNT, HEAD OF BLOUNT BROTHERS IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, TELEPHONED ME OCTOBER 9 TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE GRANTING OF A BUILDING PERMIT ON THE NEW WING OF THE ARYA SHERATON HOTEL HERE. HIS FIRM IS TO DO THE CONTRACTING. WHEN BLOUNT WAS IN TEHRAN HE SPOKE TO GENERAL KHADEMI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF IRAN AIR, AT RESIDENCE LUNCH OVER HOLD-UP ON THIS PERMIT. GEN. KHADEMI ASSURED HIM THAT HE WOULD HAVE THE PROBLEM STRAIGHTENED OUT PROMPTLY.

2. WOULD YOU PLEASE TELEPHONE MR. BLOUNT (HIS HOME PHONE NUMBER IS (205) 272-7920) AND GIVE HIM THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME: BEGIN TEXT: I SPOKE WITH GENERAL KHADEMI TWICE MORNING OF OCTOBER 10. HE CLEARLY REMEMBERS CONVERSATION WITH YOU AT LUNCH AND CONTENTS THAT HE HAS BEEN DOING HIS BEST TO CLEAR UP A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN. THE FIRST ONE AFTER YOUR DEPARTURE HAD TO DO WITH THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND POWER. THAT HAVING BEEN DISPOSED OF, GENERAL KHADEMI IS NOW UP AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN ON THE ISSUE OF CONTRACTOR COSTS AND RISING PRICES IN THIS AREA. AS YOU PROBABLY ARE AWARE, THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN HAS BEEN HAVING CASH FLOW PROBLEMS, AND IT IS TAKING A VERY TOUGH LINE WITH ALL NEW PROJECTS PARTICULARLY WHERE COSTS ARE RISING. GEN. KHADEMI ASSURED ME THAT HE WAS DOING HIS
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 10185 100941Z

BEST TO CLEAR THIS OBSTRUCTION, BUT HE WAS NOT PREPARED

TO ESTIMATE FOR MY BENEFIT HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE. HE DID
SAY HE WOULD LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS THE PROSPECTS BRIGHTEN. WHEN
AND IF HE DOES, I WILL OF COURSE LET YOU KNOW IMMEDIATELY.
(PARA) IN SITUATION OF THIS KIND IN IRAN ANY PROGNOSIS
IS MOST DIFFICULT AND DICEY. THERE IS NOTHING I CAN RECOM-
MEND TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS. OTHERS HAVE HAD SIMILAR DIFFI-
CULTIES, SO THIS PROJECT IS NOT BEING SINGLED OUT FOR
ANY UNUSUAL ACTION. PATIENCE LOOKS LIKE THE ATTRIBUTE
REQUIRED IN THE PREMISES, MUCH AS I REGRET HAVING TO SAY SO.
BEST REGARDS. END OF TEXT.
HELMS

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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